

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of **April 1, 2004**.
Reexamination and reconsideration of **claims 1-26** is respectfully requested.

Summary of The Office Action

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chakrabarti et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,418,433 and hereinafter Chakrabarti).

Claims 2-8 and 10-14 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 15-26 stand allowed.

The Present Amendment

The claims have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. With the present amendment, allowable claims 2-8 and 10-26 remain.

In particular, rejected claims 1 and 9 have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of claims 1 and 9 in future applications since Applicant believes that they patentably distinguish over the references of record for the previous reasons given.

Depend claims 8 and 14, indicated to contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims, claim 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 8 and 14, along with their dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 28-31 recite a common claim form for computer-implemented processes and software. The present specification provides examples of software and computer-

implemented processes (e.g. paragraphs [0026], [0030], [0043], etc) thus no new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present amendment be entered since it will place the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal.


Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

While the Applicant agrees with the position of patentability of the claims, Applicant does not believe the paraphrased reasons of patentability in Office Action fully reflect the scope of the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the scope of each allowed claim is based on the language corresponding to that claim and its equivalents.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 1-26** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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